

redacted content was never present. It is submitted that this limitation was clear from the claims before amendment, and this amendment is merely clarifying.

Claim 1 recites a method for redacting material from a document to create an output file. The steps of creation of a new document with the redacted material not merely overlaid, but removed, critically distinguish the method of claim 1 from Anderson. In claim 1, the content to be removed is identified, and a new file, an output file, is created in which the identified content has been removed. This new file does not contain the redacted information.

The creation of the new file without the redacted information is critically different from Anderson. The file created by the process of Anderson contains the entire original document, in addition to an opaque overlay. Although the Examiner states that Anderson creates a document with the overlay replacing part of the content, in fact, in Anderson, the overlay merely obscures a part of the content in a display. Anderson does not teach the removal of the content from the document. Anderson specifically teaches a process of examining the security level of a user, and applying the overlay if the user does not have the authority to view the document prior to the redaction. (col. 5, lines 5-11). The content designated for redaction in Anderson is not replaced with an opaque overlay, but is still present in the file. Depending on the security level of the user, either the overlay or the content is displayed. Anderson would not work if the content had been removed, as the users with higher security would also be denied access to the identified content.

While the method of Anderson is adequate for systems in which access is controlled, such as internal government computer systems, Anderson is not appropriate for posting documents in a less secure environment, such as the public website of a government agency. Such agencies frequently post documents with information exempt from Freedom of Information Act disclosure, such as the names of individuals. If the method of Anderson were used to post such a document, unauthorized users could access the entire document and overcome the security protections. By contrast, the output file created by the process of claim 1 does not contain the redacted material. As stated in the specification, the redacted material is never contained in the output file of the method.

Moreover, Anderson appears to be directed to applying an overlay to an archived copy of a document. Thus, the file provided by Anderson is a file consisting of the archived document

file content plus an overlay. The file provided by the present invention is an output file entirely distinct from the file of the original archived document.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 9 and 17, and the claims which depend from them, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 5 recites a method for designating a portion of a document for redaction by displaying all or a portion of the document, designating a geographic region of the document for redaction, and saving the designations with the document. As amended, the designation step includes manipulating a frame, with the content to be redacted visible through the frame. There is nothing in Anderson that teaches or suggests a frame displayed over the document with the material to be redacted visible through the frame. Anderson merely teaches an overlay with an include structure that has a conditional processing triplet that identifies and classifies the object as either an annotation or a redaction object (col. 3, lines 40 - 46). There is nothing in Anderson to indicate that a frame is displayed on screen to the user, with content visible within the frame, to assist in designating the content to be annotated or redacted.

Claim 6 depends from claim 5, and is allowable for the reasons that claim 5 is allowable.

Claim 8 depends from claim 5, and is allowable for the reasons that claim 5 is allowable. In addition, claim 8 recites batch designation of content previously selected by a user for batch designation. Batch designation permits a particular content item, such as a particular word in text, to be designated for redaction at each occurrence. This batch designation is thus automatic designation for redaction of an item of information. For example, a government document may be subject to FOIA disclosure, so long as the name of a certain individual is removed. The individual's name could be selected for batch designation. Nothing in Anderson suggests batch designation. The possible addition of more than one annotation per page does not constitute batch designation. The teaching of a state register set if the default is for a user to view all annotations does not relate to batch *creation* of annotations. The method of claim 8 would be akin to automatic creation of annotations in Anderson, which process is clearly not contemplated by Anderson.

Claim 13 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 5, and is allowable for the same reasons.

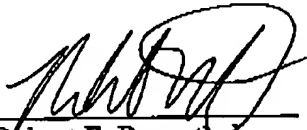
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Claim 21 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 5, and is allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED COPY OF CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENT

1. A method of redacting content from a document in electronic form, comprising the steps of:
 - selecting a geometric area on the document for redaction; said geometric area having content;
 - representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;
 - identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;
 - representing said identified information as one or more content objects;
 - identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects;
 - removing said identified content, and
 - creating an output file with, said identified content ~~removed~~ not present in said output file, to produce a redacted document.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the content is text.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the redacted text is not found in the redacted document.

5 (Amended). A method for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

- displaying all or a portion of the document;
- designating a geographic region of the document for redaction; and
- saving the designations with the document.

wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of designating comprises designating all geographic regions containing content selected by a user for batch designation.

9. A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

permitting a user to select a geometric area on a document for redaction;

representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;

identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;

representing said identified information as one or more content objects;

identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects;

removing said identified content, and

creating an output file with said identified content removed not present in said output file, to produce a redacted document.

10. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.

11. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the content is text.

12. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the text marked for redaction has been removed in the redacted document.

13 (Amended). A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

displaying all or a portion of a document;

permitting a user to designate a geographic region of the document for redaction; and

saving the designation with the document;

wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.

14. The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the further step of associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

16. The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said step of permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to select content for batch designation and designating all geographic regions containing said selected content.

17. A system for redacting content from a document in electronic form, comprising:
means for permitting a user to select a geometric area on the document for redaction;
means for representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;
means for identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;
means for representing said identified information as one or more content objects;
and
means for identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects,
means for removing said identified content, and
means for creating an output file with said identified content removed not present in said output file, to produce a redacted document.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the content is text.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the information to be redacted is not found in the redacted document.

21 (~~Amended~~). A system for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

means for displaying all or a portion of the document;
means for permitting a user to designate a geographic region of the document for redaction, said permitting means comprising means for manipulating a frame displayed on the document while content having a geographic location within said frame is visible to the user; and
means for saving the designations with the document.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein said means for permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to select content for batch designation and means for designating all geographic regions containing said selected content.

25 (~~New~~). A method for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

displaying all or a portion of the document;
designating a geographic region of the document for redaction;
saving the designations with the document;
wherein said step of designating comprises designating all geographic regions containing content selected by a user for batch designation.